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10/693,585	10/24/2003	Klaus U. Schutz	MS1-1819US	1086

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EXAMINER

COLAN, GIOVANNA B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2162

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/693,585

Applicant(s)

SCHUTZ ET AL.

Examiner

Giovanna Colan

Art Unit

2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-8, 15-16, 24-32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-14, 17-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***DETAILED ACTION***

***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1 – 8, and 15 – 16, drawn to generating a database or data structure, classified in class 707, subclass 102.
- II. Claims 9 – 14, and 17 – 23, drawn to privileged access, classified in class 707, subclass 9.
- III. Claims 24 – 27, drawn to manipulating data structure, classified in class 707, subclass 101.
- IV. Claims 28 – 29, drawn to application of database, classified in class 707, subclass 104.1.
- V. Claims 30 – 32, drawn to distributed remote access, classified in class 707, subclass 10.

Inventions I, II, III, IV, and V are related as combination and subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as generating a database or data structure; invention II has separate utility such as privileged access; invention III has separate utility such as manipulating data structure; invention IV has separate utility such as application of

database; invention V has separate utility such as distributed remote access; Each of the five inventions does not require the particulars of the remaining inventions.

On May 16, 2006, a telephone call was made to Keith Sanders to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, that result in the election with traverse of Group II being made.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

***DETAILED ACTION***

1. This action is issued in response to applicant filed application on 10/24/03
2. Claims 1 - 32 are pending.
3. Group II, claims 9 – 14, and 17 – 23 were elected with traverse. No claims cancelled.

***Claim Objections***

4. Claims 9 – 14, and 17 – 23 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The term “OS” in claims 9, 17 – 20, and 22, is not defined by the claims.

The term “LSA” in claims 12, 20, and 23, is not defined by the claims.

The term “SAM” in claims 12, 20, and 23, is not defined by the claims.

The term “AD” in claims 12, 20, and 23, is not defined by the claims.

The term “KDC” in claims 12, 20, and 23, is not defined by the claims.

Examiner is unclear as to what an “OS”, “LSA”, “SAM”, “AD”, or “KDC” is. Examiner is unable to determine what the invention entails because the terms are not clearly defined in the claims. Examiner asserts that all claims should be checked for clarification.

**Appropriate correction is required.**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 2162

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 11, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 11, and 19 recite the limitation "the user is not logged on" in line 1. This is a negative limitation, which does not have basis in the original disclosure. This limitation renders the claims indefinite.

**Examiner asserts that all claims should be checked for clarification.**

**Appropriate action is required.**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claim 9 – 11, 13 – 14, 17 – 19, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Botz et al. (Betz hereinafter) (US Patent App. Pub. No. 2003/0177388 A1, filed: March 15, 2002).

Regarding Claim 9, Betz discloses a method comprising:

receiving a credential from a user at an input device in communication with a local machine having an OS (Page 1 and 2, [0007] and [0033], lines 11 – 13, and 3 – 5 and 10 – 11, Betz<sup>1</sup>);

translating the credential with one of different coexisting credential provider modules for translating respectively different types of credentials into a common credential protocol (Page 1, [0007], lines 13 – 17, Betz<sup>2</sup>); and

using a component of the OS to authenticate the translated credential having the common credential protocol against a credential database (Page 1, [0008], lines 6 – 9, Betz<sup>3</sup>); and

logging the user on with the OS to access the local machine when the authentication is successful (Page 3, [0034], lines 7 – 13, Betz<sup>4</sup>).

Regarding Claim 10, Betz discloses a method, wherein the logging of the user on further comprises logging the user on to the local machine after a plurality of said

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<sup>1</sup> Wherein the step of forwarding implies the step of receiving the credential claimed. And wherein the user ID and password corresponds to the credential claimed.

<sup>2</sup> Wherein the authenticated user identity corresponds to the credential (being translated) claimed; the initial authentication unit corresponds to one of different coexisting credential provider modules claimed; and the local user identity corresponds to the common credential protocol claimed.

<sup>3</sup> Wherein the step to subsequent authenticate corresponds to the step to authenticate claimed.

credentials have been received, translated by a respective said different coexisting credential provider module, and authenticated successfully (Page 7, [0094], lines 6 – 10, Botz<sup>5</sup>).

Regarding Claim 11, Botz discloses a method, wherein the user is not logged on to the local machine at the time when the translated credentials are authenticated (Page 7, [0094], lines 6 – 10, Botz).

Regarding Claim 13, Botz discloses a method, wherein each said credential provider module is interoperable, through a credential provider API, to the component of the OS (Fig. 4, item 402, Page 5, [0071], lines 1 – 4, the interfaces services, Botz).

Regarding Claim 14, Botz discloses a computer-readable medium comprising instructions that, when executed by a computer (Page 2, [0030], lines 1 – 4, Botz).

Regarding Claim 17, Botz discloses a method comprising:  
receiving a credential from a user at an input device in communication with a local machine having an OS (Page 1 and 2, [0007] and [0033], lines 11 – 13, and 3 – 5 and 10 – 11; respectively, Botz<sup>6</sup>);

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<sup>4</sup> Wherein the step of sign-on corresponds to the step of logging the user claimed.

<sup>5</sup> Wherein the step of using the policy information, including trust policy and initial authentication, to signing the user on (Page 7, [0094], lines 1 – 6, Botz) corresponds to the step of logging the user claimed. In addition, Botz discloses the use of a plurality of credentials as claimed (Page 7, [0101], lines 3 – 14, Botz).



translating the credential with a credential provider module that corresponds to the input device (Page 1 and 3, [0007] and [0046], lines 13 – 17 and 1 – 10; respectively, Botz<sup>7</sup>), wherein:

the credential provider module is one of a plurality of coexisting different said credential provider modules (Page 3, [0042], lines 1 – 5, a particular server within a defined trust set of servers, Botz); and

each said credential provider module can perform a translation of a respectively different type of said credential received at a different said input device in communication with the local machine (Page 1 and 4, [0007] and [0050], lines 13 – 17 and 1 – 6; respectively, Botz); and

each said translation of each said credential is in a common credential protocol (Page 1, [0007], lines 13 – 17, Botz<sup>8</sup>);

communicating the translated credential having the common credential protocol through a credential provider interface to a logon UI routine of the OS (Page 7, [0090], lines 1 – 5, Botz<sup>9</sup>);

passing the translated credential having the common credential protocol to a logon routine of the OS from the logon UI routine (page 7, [0091], lines 1 – 4, Botz);

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<sup>6</sup> Wherein the step of forwarding implies the step of receiving the credential claimed. And wherein the user ID and password corresponds to the credential claimed.

<sup>7</sup> Wherein the step of identifying to a particular server (Page 3, [0046], lines 4 – 8, Botz) corresponds to the step of translating to the corresponding input device claimed.

<sup>8</sup> Wherein the local user identity corresponds to the common credential protocol claimed.

<sup>9</sup> Wherein the identity translation token (ITT) and/or the identity translation token reference (ITTR) correspond to the translated credential claimed. And wherein the server's interface services correspond to the credential provided interface claimed. Botz specifically discloses the logon UI routine in Page 7, [0092], and lines 1 – 8.

authenticating the translated credential against a credential database with the logon routine of the OS (Page 1 and 7, [0008] and [0092], lines 6 – 9 and 1 – 5; respectively, Botz<sup>10</sup>); and

logging the user on to access the local machine with the OS when the authentication is successful (Page 3 and 7, [0034] and [0094], lines 7 – 13 and 6 – 10; respectively, Botz<sup>11</sup>).

Regarding Claim 18, Botz discloses a method, wherein the logging the user on to access the local machine with the OS further comprises deferring the logging on of the user to access the local machine until the receiving, the translating, the communicating, the passing, and the authenticating successfully have been repeated for each of a plurality of said credentials (Page 7, [0094], lines 6 – 10, Botz<sup>12</sup>).

Regarding Claim 19, Botz discloses a method, wherein the user is not logged on to access the local machine when the translated credentials are authenticated against the credential database with the logon routine of the OS (Page 7, [0094], lines 6 – 10, Botz).

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<sup>10</sup> Wherein the step of performing subsequent authentication corresponds to the step of authenticating claimed.

<sup>11</sup> Wherein the step of sign-on corresponds to the step of logging the user claimed.

<sup>12</sup> Wherein the step of using the policy information, including trust policy and initial authentication, to signing the user on (Page 7, [0094], lines 1 – 6, Botz) corresponds to the step of logging the user claimed. In addition, Botz discloses the use of a plurality of credentials as claimed (Page 7, [0101], lines 3 – 14, Botz). By signing the user on after the information is authenticated, the system is deferring the signing on or logging on.

Regarding Claim 21, Botz discloses a computer-readable medium comprising instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform the method of claim 17 (Page 2, [0030], lines 1 – 4, Botz).

Regarding Claim 22, Botz discloses a computer-readable medium comprising a credential provider module including instructions that, when executed by a local machine having an OS, receive and translate a credential into a credential protocol so as to be compatible for authentication by an authentication component of the OS against a credential database for logging a user identified by the credential on with the OS to access the local machine when the authentication is successful, wherein:

the translated credential can be received via an interface to the authentication component of the OS (Page 1 and 2, [0007] and [0033], lines 11 – 13, and 3 – 5 and 10 – 11; respectively, Botz<sup>13</sup>);

the interface to the authentication component of the OS is compatible for receiving each of a plurality of said credentials from a corresponding plurality of different coexisting credential provider modules (Page 1 and 4, [0007] and [0050], lines 13 – 17 and 1 – 6, multiple security user registries of multiple computer platforms; respectively, Botz); and

each said different coexisting credential provider module can:

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<sup>13</sup> Wherein the step of forwarding implies the step of receiving the credential claimed. And wherein the user ID and password corresponds to the credential claimed.

receive a respective different type of said credential from a respective input device (Fig.10, items 1104, 1108, 1110, and 1112, Page 9, [0123], lines 8 – 11, Botz<sup>14</sup>); and

translate each said different type of said credential into the credential protocol so as to be compatible for authentication by the authentication component of the OS against the credential database (Page 3, [0039], lines 1 – 6, an infrastructure to support run-time cooperation between disparate security registry user, Botz).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

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<sup>14</sup> Wherein examiner interprets the step where a first user signs on using Public Key infrastructure (PKI), and a second user signs on using Kerberos (Page 9, [0123], lines 8 – 11, Botz) as the step of receiving different type of credential from respective input device as claimed.

were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11. Claims 12, 20, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Botz et al. (Betz hereinafter) (US Patent App. Pub. No. 2003/0177388 A1, filed: March 15, 2002) in view of Axel et al. (Axel hereinafter) (US Patent App. Pub. No. 2004/0139355 A1, filed: November 7, 2002).

Regarding Claim 12, Botz discloses all the limitations as disclosed above including a method, wherein the use of the component of the OS to authenticate the translated credential having the common credential protocol against the credential database further comprises:

communicating the translated credential to an LSA (Page 7, [0090], lines 1 – 5, Botz<sup>15</sup>); and

determining the authentication with the LSA against the credential database (Page 7, [0090], lines 6 – 9, Botz<sup>16</sup>) that is selected from the group consisting of:

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<sup>15</sup> Wherein examiner interprets the AIT domain controller as the LSA claimed; and the identity translation token (ITT) and/or the identity translation token reference (ITTR) as the translated credential claimed.

<sup>16</sup> Wherein the step of validating the translated token using a copy of the signing value retained at the AIT domain controller corresponds to the step of determining the authentication against the credential database as claimed. In addition, Botz further discloses that this controller utilizes databases to store the information (Page 6, [0086], lines 3 – 7, Botz).

a local database other than the SAM database (Page 5, [0069], lines 3 – 5, local user registry, Botz);

a remote credential database (Page 5, [0067], lines 12 – 14, LDAP-accessible storage, Botz<sup>17</sup>);

a token protocol credential service (Page 9, [0133], lines 2 – 6, HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Botz);

a challenge and response protocol service (Page 9, [0133], lines 1 – 6, HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Botz<sup>18</sup>);

In addition, Botz further discloses KDC (Fig. 10, item 1102, Kerberos, Botz). However, Botz is silent with respect to a SAM database; and an AD at a domain remote from the local machine. On the other hand, Axel discloses a system including a SAM database (Page 2, [0018], lines 3 – 5, Axel); an AD (Page 2, [0017], lines 4 – 5, Axel) and KDC at a domain remote from the local machine (Page 2, [0017], lines 1 – 3, Axel); and an LSA (Page 2, [0021], lines 1 – 2, Axel). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the Axel's teachings to the system Botz. Skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so, as suggested by Axel (Page 1, [0002], lines 1 – 4, Axel), to provide access to various password-enabled computer network elements through the use of a single password enabled network element. In addition, both of the references (Botz and Axel) teach

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<sup>17</sup> Wherein the LDAP-accessible storage corresponds to the remote credential database claimed. The reason is because this storage is retrieved upon a server session, which would imply a remote session.

<sup>18</sup> Wherein the feature of extracting corresponds to the challenge claimed; and the feature of passing corresponds to the response claimed.

features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor of databases management systems, such as, authentication, and login users. This close relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

Regarding Claim 20, the combination of Botz in view of Axel ("Botz/Axel" hereinafter) discloses a method, wherein the authenticating of the translated credential against the credential database with the logon routine of the OS further comprises:

communicating the translated credential to an LSA from the logon routine of the OS (Page 7, [0090], lines 1 – 5, Botz<sup>19</sup>; and Page 2, [0021], lines 1 – 2, LSA, Axel); and

determining the authentication with the LSA against the credential database (Page 7, [0090], lines 6 – 9, Botz<sup>20</sup>; and Page 2, [0021], lines 1 – 2, LSA, Axel) that is selected from the group consisting of:

a SAM database (Page 2, [0018], lines 3 – 5, Axel);

a local database other than the SAM database (Page 5, [0069], lines 3 – 5, local user registry, Botz);

a remote credential database (Page 5, [0067], lines 12 – 14, LDAP-accessible storage, Botz<sup>21</sup>);

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<sup>19</sup> Wherein examiner interprets the AIT domain controller as the LSA claimed; and the identity translation token (ITT) and/or the identity translation token reference (ITTR) as the translated credential claimed.

<sup>20</sup> Wherein the step of validating the translated token using a copy of the signing value retained at the AIT domain controller corresponds to the step of determining the authentication against the credential database as claimed. In addition, Botz further discloses that this controller utilizes databases to store the information (Page 6, [0086], lines 3 – 7, Botz).

<sup>21</sup> Wherein the LDAP-accessible storage corresponds to the remote credential database claimed. The reason is because this storage is retrieved upon a server session, which implies a remote session.

a token protocol credential service (Page 9, [0133], lines 2 – 6, HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Botz);

a challenge and response protocol service (Page 9, [0133], lines 1 – 6, HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Botz<sup>22</sup>); and

an AD (Page 2, [0017], lines 4 – 5, Axel) and KDC at a domain remote from the local machine (Page 2, [0017], lines 1 – 3, Axel; and Fig. 10, item 1102, Kerberos, Botz).

Regarding Claim 23, Botz/Axel discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the authentication component of the OS comprises:

a logon UI module (Page 6, [0076], lines 1 – 5, Botz);

an OS logon module for receiving Remote Procedure Call (RPC) calls from the log UI module (Page 6, [0083], lines 1 – 5, remote sign-on, Botz); and

an LSA for determining the authentication, and in communication with, the credential database (Page 7, [0090], lines 6 – 9, Botz<sup>23</sup>) that is selected from the group consisting of:

a SAM database (Page 2, [0018], lines 3 – 5, Axel);

a local database other than the SAM database (Page 5, [0069], lines 3 – 5, local user registry, Botz);

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<sup>22</sup> Wherein the feature of extracting corresponds to the challenge claimed; and the feature of passing corresponds to the response claimed.

<sup>23</sup> Wherein the step of validating the translated token using a copy of the signing value retained at the AIT domain controller corresponds to the step of determining the authentication against the credential database as claimed. In addition, Botz further discloses that this controller utilizes databases to store the information (Page 6, [0086], lines 3 – 7, Botz).



a remote credential database (Page 5, [0067], lines 12 – 14, LDAP-accessible storage, Botz<sup>24</sup>);

a token protocol credential service (Page 9, [0133], lines 2 – 6, HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Botz);

a challenge and response protocol service (Page 9, [0133], lines 1 – 6, HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Botz<sup>25</sup>); and

an AD (Page 2, [0017], lines 4 – 5, Axel) and KDC at a domain remote from the local machine (Page 2, [0017], lines 1 – 3, Axel; and Fig. 10, item 1102, Kerberos, Botz).

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<sup>24</sup> Wherein the LDAP-accessible storage corresponds to the remote credential database claimed. The reason is because this storage is retrieved upon a server session, which implies a remote session.

<sup>25</sup> Wherein the feature of extracting corresponds to the challenge claimed; and the feature of passing corresponds to the response claimed.

***Prior Art Made Of Record***

1. Botz et al. (US Patent App. Pub. No. 2003/0177388 A1, filed: March 15, 2002) discloses authenticated identity translation within a multiple computing unit environment.
2. Axel et al. (US Patent App. Pub. No. 2004/0139355 A1, filed: November 7, 2002) discloses a method and system of accessing a plurality of network elements.
3. Hartman et al. (US Patent No. 6,807,636 B2) discloses methods and apparatus for facilitating security in a network.

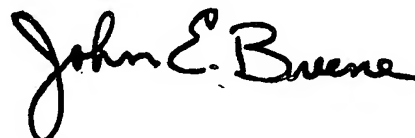
***Points of Contact***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Giovanna Colan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2752. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Giovanna Colan  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2162  
June 8, 2006



JOHN BREENE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

SA